

Philadelphia Mobilization for Haiti

When Hurricane Matthew hit earlier this month, it left in its wake a devastated land and population from the Southeast to the Northwest region of Haiti. As expected in such times, the need for food, water and medicine are always urgent since the sea salt impacts the agriculture, potable water, roads, health and infrastructural livelihood. Due to the colossal level of damage this time, the current needs are even more dire.



Figure-1-2: Ms. Christelle Chery from Philadelphia enjoys the view from the balcony of her house in Jeremie in the first picture. Evidence of Hurricane Matthew's destruction is shown in the second.

As expected, the Haitian Coalition of Philadelphia joined forces with its partner organizations to respond to this disaster, as it had done previously. Following the 2010 earthquake, the Haiti Rescue Fund was set up in order to bring relief to those in need. The Fund was conceived to accept ongoing donations year round in anticipation of the environmental costs to the island nation brought about the growing impact of global warming. The plan is that it should continue to operate as such. However, in face of the current hurricane tragedy, it is ready to receive donations to help cover the costs of transport of necessary goods to Haiti as well as offer direct monetary support on the ground. The latter approach was deemed wise in order to support the greater needs of the affected population: gas, work materials, batteries, boots etc... Also, the idea of offering direct financial support on the ground grew from the concern and past experience that large quantities of donated goods ironically further decimated the local economy. Therefore, direct monetary contributions to the local community deterred this assault to the Haitian economy by facilitating the purchase of goods on the ground.

We hope that you will consider making a tax deductible contribution to the [Haiti Rescue Fund](#) in order to assist the relief effort. Please be assured that every measure is being deployed so that your contribution will be used to the best possible good and efficiency for those in greatest need. We expect you to hold us accountable toward that end. With thanks and many blessings forward!

The partners leading the cause of this initiative are the Haitian Clergy of Philadelphia, the Haitian American Law Enforcement Association (HALEA), the Haitian Professionals of Philadelphia (HPP), the Elise Joseph Foundation (EJF) and the Haitian Coalition of Philadelphia (HCP) including its other organizational members.